(a) whether there has been a decline in the small savings collections during 1991;

(b) if so, the extent of decline;

(c) whether it has led to a fall in the share of States and if so, the extent thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government had appointed a Committee to look into the reasons for improving the same;

(e) if so, the composition of the committee;

(f) whether this Committee has since submitted its report to the Government, if so, when; and

(g) the salient features of the suggestions made by the Committee in its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The net collections in small savings during April to December, 1991 show a decline of 32.8% over the net collections during April to December, 1990.

(c) Yes, Sir. The statewise extent of the shortfall will be known after the close of the financial year.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Committee was headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan, Member, Planning Commission. Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Additional Secretary (Budget), Department of Economic Affairs, a representative of Department of Posts, Finance Secretaries of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal were members of the Committee.

(f) The Committee has submitted its report in February, 1992.

(g) The Committee has suggested increase in interest rates on certain small savings instruments and extensio of fiscal concessions.

Import of Cloves and Cassia

1707. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations regardig import of cloves and cassia as a restricted items;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from various quarters for continiouce of the import of cloves and cassia against specific licences and for not permitting the import of these itmes against Eximscrips.

(c) Government have announced structural changes to the Import & Export Policy vide Ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. 278-ITC (PN)/90-93 dated 29.2.92 and the items cloves and cassia, being covered by the negative list continue to be available for import against specific licences as hitherto. Copies of the aforesaid Public Notice are abatable in the Parliament library.

Currency Notes

1708. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of currency notes of Rs. 1/-, 2/- and 5/- denominations printed during the last three years; and

(b) the average life of such notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Details of total number of currency notes of Re. 1/-, Rs.2/- and Rs. 5/- denomination printed and supplied to Reserve Bank of India during the last three years are as under:

(Figure in Million pieces)

Year	*Denomination-wise production*		
	Re. 1/-	*Rs.2/-*	*Rs. 5/-*
1988-89	460.80	1527	1378
1889-90	355.00	1563	1235
1990-91	440.80	1549	1287

(b) The average life of Re. 1/-, Rs. 2/- and Rs. 5/- currency notes is about six months, one year and two years, respectively.

[*Translation*]

Demand of Handloom Weavers

1709. SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided by the Union Government to the yarn producing units in Gujrat during the year 1990-91; and

(b) the number of demands received by the Union Government from the handloom weavers in the country and fulfilled, besides supply of yarn, during the year 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Under the scheme for loan assistance for setting up of handloom weavers cooperative spinning mills, no assistance was released to mills in Gujarat during 1990-91 as no proposal for assistance was received from the State.

(b) Financial assistance's under various developmental schemes implemented in the handloom sector by Government of India are provided to all States on the basis of proposals received from concerned State Governments. During 1990-91 a total of Rs. 215.40 crores was released to various States in the country under these schemes. About 462.6 million kgs of hank yarn was delivered by the spinning mills in the country including 13.9 million kgs of yarn supplied by the national Handloom Development Corporation for consumption in the handloom sector during 1990-91.

[*English*]

Setting up of Ordnance Factory

1710. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: